

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Agency of Human Services, Department of Health, Division of Mental Health
108 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont 05401

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Barbara Carroll

DATE: December 22, 2006

RE: Contacts with Police (as Victims or Offenders) by Adults with Serious
Mental Illness (CRT)

Criminal justice involvement is one of the core measures of Treatment Outcomes recommended by the PIP Advisory Group¹ and many other frameworks for evaluating the performance of mental health and substance abuse programs. In the past, the PIP has tended to focus on mental health and substance abuse service recipients as offenders within the criminal justice system by measuring arrest, criminal charge, and correctional involvement rates.² This week's PIP begins a series in which our definition of criminal justice involvement is expanded to include involvement as a crime victim.

Data for this analysis include anonymous extracts from two databases. The first database is the Vermont Incident-Based Reporting System (VIBRS) maintained by the Vermont State Police which includes a record of all contacts with both State Police and participating local police departments. For purposes of this report, all contacts with police where individuals were identified as either "victims" or "offenders" were selected. Because two Chittenden County police departments do not participate in VIBRS, Chittenden County is excluded from this analysis and the focus is on "rural Vermont". The second data set is the Vermont Division of Mental Health Monthly Service Report (MSR) database. Basic demographic information regarding all individuals served by Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT) programs for adults with serious mental illness during FY2006 was extracted from this database. Because the data sets used in this analysis do not include unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation (PPE) was used to estimate the number of unique individuals represented in each data set and the number of unique individuals shared by the data sets.³

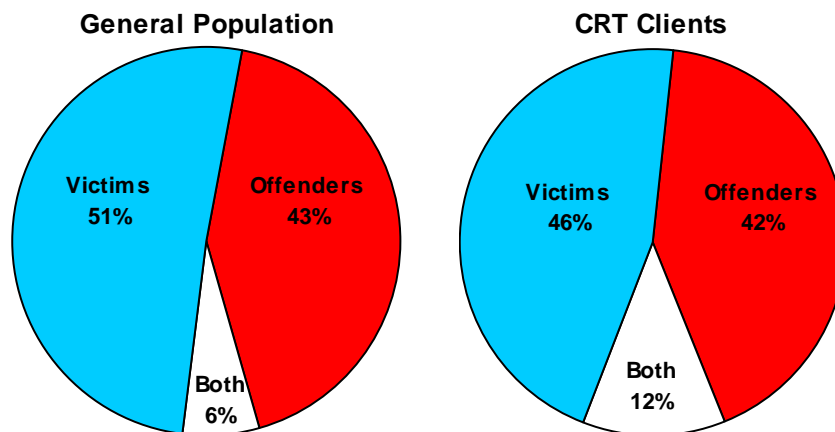
As you will see, CRT clients, overall, were slightly more likely to be identified as victims than to be identified as offenders in their contacts with police (7.1%± vs. 6.6%± respectively). There were, however, substantial differences among age and gender groups in the likelihood of being identified as a victim or an offender. Female CRT service recipients were more likely than males to have been identified as victims (8.2%± vs. 5.6%± respectively) but were less likely than males to be identified as offenders (4.5%± vs. 9.3%± respectively). Young CRT service recipients were more likely to be offenders than to be victims (15.7%± vs. 13.2%±). There was no difference between the victim and the offender rates for CRT clients in the 35-49 age group, and CRT

clients were more likely to be victims than offenders among CRT service recipients in the 50+ age group (4.5%± vs. 2.3%±).

It is important to note that offenders and victims are not mutually exclusive categories. In rural Vermont during FY2006, 12% of all CRT clients who had any contacts with police as victims or offenders had both types of contacts, twice the rate for the general population (6%).

We look forward to your interpretation of these findings and your suggestions for further analysis of this comprehensive data set. Please forward your comments and suggestions to pip@vdh.state.vt.us or 802.863.7249.

Nature of Criminal Justice Involvement

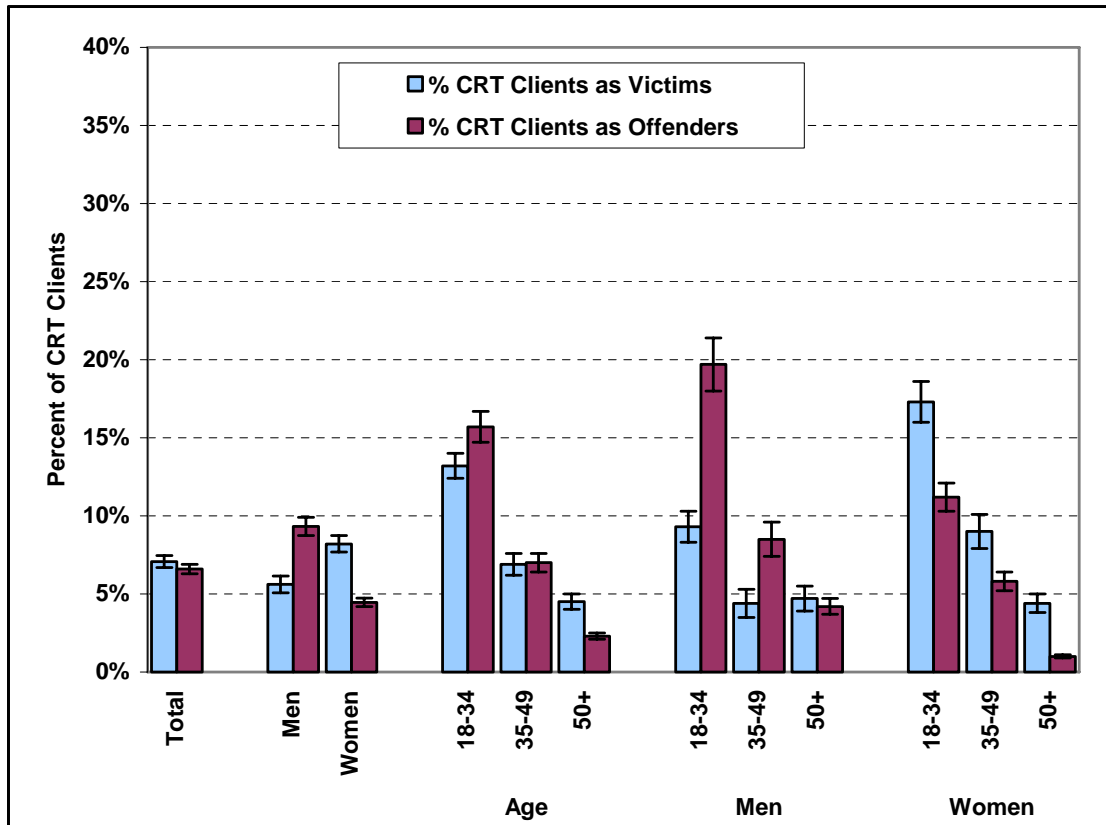


¹ <http://healthvermont.gov/mh/docs/pips/pipPerfIndRecs.pdf>

² <http://healthvermont.gov/mh/docs/pips/2006/pip040706.pdf>

³ <http://www.thebristolobservatory.com/fulltext/statsinmedicine.pdf>

**Adults with Serious Mental Illness:
Contacts with Police as Victims and Offenders
in Rural Vermont during FY2006**



		Total Number CRT clients	Number of Victims	% CRT Clients as Victims	Number of Offenders	% CRT Clients as Offenders
	Total	2,610 ± 8	184 ± 10	7.1% ± 0.4%	172 ± 8	6.6% ± 0.3%
	Men	1,146 ± 5	64 ± 6	5.6% ± 0.5%	107 ± 7	9.3% ± 0.6%
	Women	1,464 ± 6	120 ± 8	8.2% ± 0.5%	65 ± 4	4.5% ± 0.3%
Age	18-34	491 ± 3	65 ± 4	13.2% ± 0.8%	77 ± 5	15.7% ± 1.0%
	35-49	992 ± 5	69 ± 7	6.9% ± 0.7%	70 ± 6	7.0% ± 0.6%
	50+	1,126 ± 5	51 ± 6	4.5% ± 0.5%	25 ± 2	2.3% ± 0.2%
Men	18-34	256 ± 2	24 ± 3	9.3% ± 1.0%	51 ± 4	19.7% ± 1.7%
	35-49	444 ± 4	19 ± 4	4.4% ± 0.9%	38 ± 5	8.5% ± 1.1%
	50+	446 ± 3	21 ± 4	4.7% ± 0.8%	19 ± 2	4.2% ± 0.5%
Women	18-34	235 ± 2	41 ± 3	17.3% ± 1.3%	26 ± 2	11.2% ± 0.9%
	35-49	548 ± 4	50 ± 6	9.0% ± 1.1%	32 ± 3	5.8% ± 0.6%
	50+	681 ± 4	30 ± 4	4.4% ± 0.6%	7 ± 1	1.0% ± 0.1%

Analyses are based on anonymous extracts from FY2006 Monthly Service Report (MSR) data sets submitted to DMH by designated community agencies, and on anonymous extracts from the Vermont Incident-Based Reporting System (VIBRS) maintained by the Vermont State Police. Because these data sets do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to estimate the unduplicated number of individuals shared by both, using 95% confidence intervals.